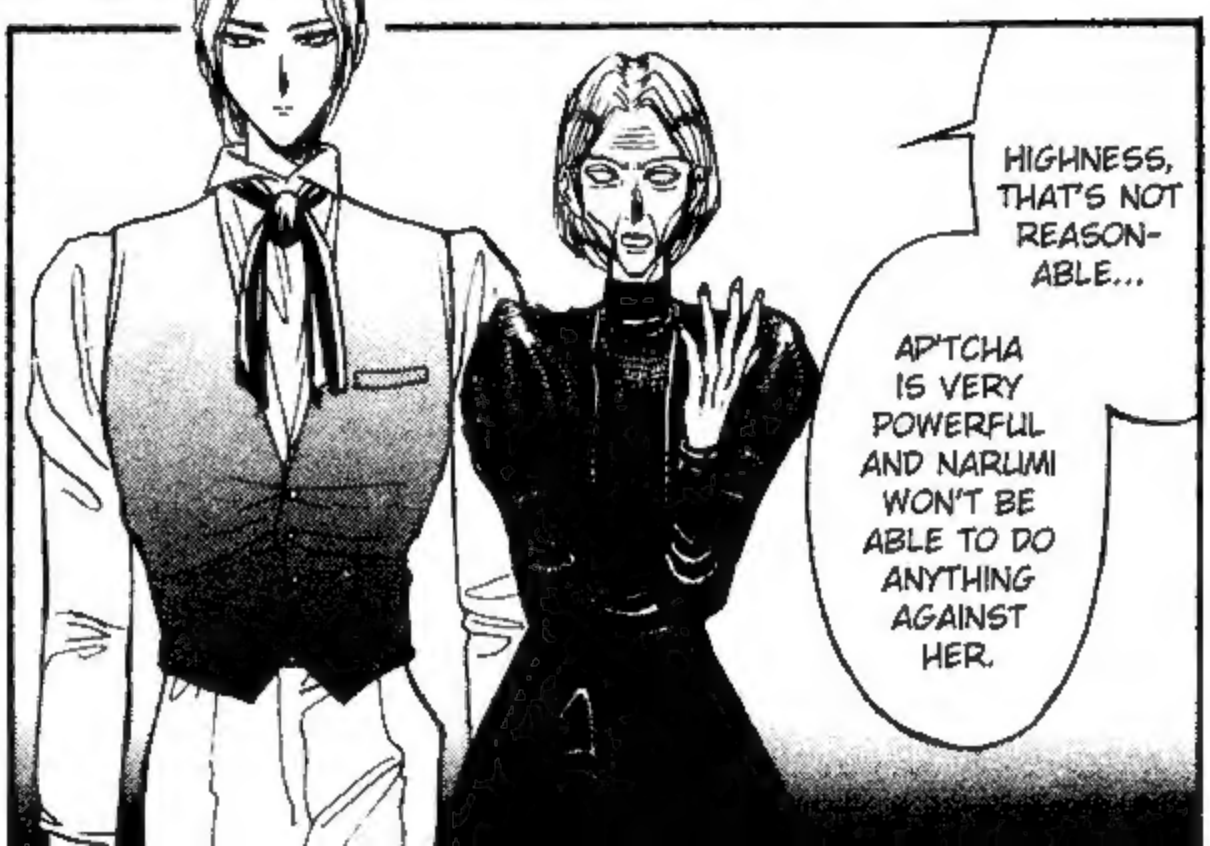
ACT IX : KARAKURI *
THE PRINCESS OF THE AUTOMATONS
"TWO ELISES"



HEY! WAIT A SECOND!

I DON'T WANNA STAY WITH PEOPLE LIKE YOU...

CAPABLE OF LETTING AUTO-MATONS ABDUCT ME JUST TO FIND THEIR HAUNT!

FOOL!

THE BALL HAS ALREADY STARTED. A COMMON GIRL LIKE YOU CAN'T ...

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN...?

PRIN-CESS ELISE ?!

AH!

WHO ARE YOU CALLING "A COMMON GIRL"?!

YES...

LET ME THROUGH !

SAH...

YES!!

DON'T LET THESE PEOPLE IN!

GUNS ARE USELESS AGAINST AN AUTOMATON LIKE AP'TCHA.

IT WAS ONLY TO GAIN TIME.

PRIN-CESS !

THEY'LL DESTROY THE AUTOMATON WHO'S TRYING TO STEAL MY IDENTITY, WON'T THEY?

YOU'VE PUT MEN IN STRATEGIC PLACES.

PLEASE.

PRINCESS!

WHAT SHOULD WE DO, GUY?

YOU! COME HERE!

DAH

ALL RIGHT, GUY.

SHIROGANES DON'T HAVE TO FOLLOW HUMANS' RULES.

WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME?

AND THAT IT'S AN AUTOMATON TRYING TO KILL ME IN ORDER TO BECOME THE PRINCESS OF LOHENSTEIN...

I HAVE TO TELL EVERYONE THAT SOMEONE'S TRYING TO SUPERSEDE ME...

BROLOM

...

...

HAHAHA BLA BLA

BLA BLA
OOHH!!
A
ZOH

I'M THE REAL ONE!
NARUMI, YOU'RE NOT DANCING WITH THE RIGHT ELISE!

WAIT! DON'T SHOOT!

WHAT'S GOING ON?! ANOTHER PRIN-CESS...

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN ?!

NARUMI...

NO... WHAT'S THAT GIRL TALKING ABOUT?

OOOH

FATHER!

ELISE!

...HEUH...

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

AND TONIGHT, I AM FINALLY ABLE TO MAKE MY DEBUT INTO SOCIETY WITH THIS BALL.

FATHER, I'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT LATELY.

I AM ELISE, YOUR DAUGHTER! THAT PERSON TOOK MY APPEARANCE, BUT SHE'S ACTUALLY AN AUTOMATON!

HN HN...

WHY WOULD GOD WANT TO IMPOSE UPON ME ANOTHER HUMILIA-TION...

BY MAKING PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT I'M A FALSE PRINCESS?

FATHER ...

ELISE...

...

FATHER !!

NO... MY OWN FATHER ISN'T RECOG-NIZING ME...

IT'S UNBELIEVABLE! THE BEHAVIOUR, THE VOICE... THEY BOTH ARE "ELISE"...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY... THEY BOTH SEEM TO BE REAL TO ME...

I THOUGHT IT WAS PART OF THE SHOW... THAT GIRL IS CRAZY!

I SAW RIGHT AWAY THAT SHE WAS THE REAL IMPOSTOR.

LOOK CAREFULLY, HER EYES AND HER CHIN ARE NOT THE ONES OF THE PRINCESS!

THE REAL PRINCESS WOULD NEVER DRESS LIKE THAT!

SHE APPEARS ALL OF A SUDDEN AND KEEPS SAYING THAT THE PRINCESS IS AN IMPOSTOR!

WHO'S THAT GIRL?!

BUT... NO!

I HAVE AN IDEA...

FIGHT EACH OTHER!

WHAT ?!

WOULD YOU HAVE A BETTER IDEA?

TELLING A PRINCESS TO FIGHT...

HOW DISRESPECTFUL!

YOU ARE... ONE OF THE SHIROGANES...

SO... THE ONE WHO'S GONNA WIN IS THE FALSE PRINCESS.

WHY SHOULD THEY FIGHT?

WELL ...

THAT PERSON WILL PROBABLY BEAT THE REAL PRINCESS, WHO WAS RAISED LIKE A GOOD LADY WITHOUT KNOWING HOW THE WORLD IS ON THE OUTSIDE.

THE ONE WHO'S TRYING TO SUPERSEDE THE REAL PRINCESS MUST AIM FOR SOMETHING.

THAT MAN IS A REAL IDIOT!

AN IDIOT!

FATHER, HOW COULD YOU IMPOSE UPON ME SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

BUT WE HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE.

THAT'S NOT REALLY ELEGANT...

UNTIL NOW, I HAVE FAILED BECAUSE THE BARON COULDN'T GET RID OF ELISE, BUT TODAY, VICTORY WILL BE MINE!

IT'S A TEST... I WOULDN'T HAVE ANY PROBLEM BEATING THE PRINCESS...

AH!

BUT...

WE MUST FIGHT?

AND THEN, THE WINNER WILL BE CONSIDERED...

FOR ME?!

DID NARUMI SAY THAT ON PURPOSE?!

YES!

I KNOW WHAT I HAVE TO DO!!

CLAC

DON'T SHOOT...

UNTIL ONE OR THE OTHER DOES SOME-THING.

KEEP YOUR BODY STRAIGHT, ALIGNED WITH YOUR SHOULDERS.

YOU STILL DON'T GET IT!!

FOOL!

BUT...

AH...

WHAT'S SHE DOING?

AND TURN MY BODY 45 DEGREES ON THIS SIDE...

I RAISE MY HAND... SLIGHTLY LOWER IT...

HELP!

DO IT, ELISE! YOU'VE LOST FOREVER! I'LL FALL ON PURPOSE!

I BEND FORWARD ...

STRENU-OUSLY TURN MY HIP AND SHOULDER AND THEN ...

FH...

FH...

AHH!

...I HIT!

SPLAFF

SHE'S THE IMPOST-OR!

SHE HIT HER!

HOW AWFUL!!

THE IMPOST-OR!!

MY GOD!

IT'S HER!

OOHH!!

AIM AT HER!

SCHLAC

ZHING

...IS AN IMITATION!
THE OTHER ONE...

TAN TAN TAN
SHOOT!!

AIN'T THAT RIGHT, AP'TCHA?!

THIS IS THE REAL PRINCESS.

HURRY! SHOOT!!

BARON GÜNTHER!

THAT MAN AND THE GIRL ARE WORKING TOGETHER!

DAMN!!

DAH DAH DAH DAH DAH DAH

BLACKOUT